

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-12 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended herein.

Claim 12

Claim 12 is not addressed in the Office action. Accordingly, Applicants request a new Office action be mailed addressing all claims and resetting the period for response.

Section 102

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,946,585 (Zhang).

Claims 1, 3, and 6-11 recite a semiconductor device manufacturing method comprising, among other things, forming a semiconductor film on a substrate, and forming a hydrogen-containing film on the semiconductor film by at least one of a plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition and physical vapor deposition. Zhang does not disclose or suggest the recitations of claims 1, 3, and 6-11. In particular, Zhang does not disclose forming a hydrogen-containing film on the semiconductor film by at least one of a plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition and physical vapor deposition. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claims 1, 3, and 6-11 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Section 103

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,793,461 (Inou).

Claim 5 depends from independent claim 1 and recites a semiconductor device manufacturing method comprising, among other things, forming a semiconductor film on a substrate, and forming a hydrogen-containing film on the semiconductor film by at least one of a plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition and physical vapor deposition. Neither Zhang nor Inou, considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the recitations of claim 5. In particular, Zhang and Inou do not disclose or suggest forming a hydrogen-containing film on the semiconductor film by at least one of a plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition and physical vapor deposition. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 5 is improper and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

As the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, a favorable action and Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Dated January 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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